

Remnant Life Church  
December 8, 2019  
Joseph – A Quiet Hero  
Luke 2:1-19

This morning look briefly at the man who was the focus of our Advent reading

- In biblical times your family history was of great importance
- It served to identify and confirm who you were
- Jesus' full name was not Jesus Christ
  - Christ is not a name it is a title
  - From the Greek *Christos* meaning Messiah or Savior
  - In His time on earth called Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus son of Joseph
  - Later, after His resurrection and ascension to heaven called the Christ
- Full names included the father's name
  - Jesus bar Joseph
- The importance of your heritage is why Jesus' family history is reported in 2 of the first 3 gospels

The two lineages given in Matthew and Luke trace different lines

- Matthew, written to be read by a primarily Jewish audience, begins at Abraham (the father of the Jewish nation) and comes down to Jesus through David's son Solomon – it is the line of Joseph
  - Unusual in that it contains the names of 4 women
    - Mid-eastern genealogical lists rarely ever did this
    - They were all women with less-than reputable backgrounds
      - Tamar and Rahab were both former prostitutes (**Matt 1:3,5**)
      - Ruth was a former pagan (**Matt 1:5**)
      - Bathsheba was a former adulteress (**Matt 1:6**)
    - But by the redemptive power of God's grace
      - Tamar, Ruth, and Rahab became the grandmothers (several times over) of a shepherd boy who would make Israel great, King David
      - And Bathsheba became the mother of perhaps Israel's most revered king, because he was the one who would build the great temple of God, Solomon
- Luke, written to a more Gentile audience, traces back to Adam through David's son Nathan
  - Luke presents 74 names
  - It is the line of Mary through her father, Heli
  - The importance of both Joseph and Mary being of the Davidic line is to defend the prophesy of Jesus as the heir of David
  - **Jer. 23:5** – 600 years before the birth of Jesus

We know little about the life of Joseph:

- A man of fairly early age – very likely late 20’s or early 30’s
- Honorable
- Kind
- And he was obedient to the leading and direction of God

Look at the relationship between Joseph and Mary...

Betrothal in the first century Jewish culture –

1. Not engagement as we know it today although the concept of saved for marriage is similar
2. We read that when Joseph realized Mary was pregnant, he decided to divorce her quietly
  - a. A common question – why did Joseph need to “divorce” Mary if they were only engaged? (**Matt 1:19**)
3. What did a first-century engagement look like?
  - a. Once the amount of money (also called a dowry) was agreed upon by the bridegroom and father of the bride the betrothal period began
  - b. They would continue to reside in their own separate homes without physical union
  - c. This was, for each, a time to prepare themselves for the wedding and their new lives of living together
    - i. Mary most likely learning from her mother how to keep a home and raise children
    - ii. Joseph saving money and preparing the home they would live in
  - d. The timeframe could range anywhere from several months to several years depending on the age of the girl and how fast the groom could prepare their home
  - e. The groom would not announce his intended time to come for the bride
    - i. He would most likely alert the father of the girl just before arriving by she would not know
    - ii. He came at the time of his choosing, so the bride always had to be ready

It is this concept that Jesus utilizes by the telling of the parable of the 10 virgins in **Mat 25**

**READ - Matthew 25:1-13**

- f. Jesus is speaking and He is telling the disciples about the coming Kingdom of God
  - i. He says earlier in **Matt 24:36** - *But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*
  - ii. Jesus knows this will disappoint the disciples so He tells them a parable to describe, not when the age will end, but how they must prepare

But Joseph had to deal with something no one else had ever dealt with before, nor would ever deal with again

- And it was all on the word of an angel in a dream
- **Matt 1:18-25**

1. **He was confronted with the impossible** – his new wife is pregnant, but it is not through a man but through the Holy Spirit ([Mat 1:20-21](#))
2. **He is then must deal with a difficult and hazardous journey** – 80 miles taking 7 to 10 days fleeing to Egypt with his new wife and infant son ([Mat 2:13-15](#))

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, was a remarkable man who participated briefly, but powerfully in the birth of Jesus

- He demonstrated his integrity by how he treated Mary
- He demonstrated his obedience by doing what the angel told him to do
- He demonstrated his godly resolve and love for Mary by taking her everywhere he needed to in order to protect her

The name Joseph was not an uncommon one

- There was another Joseph of note in the Bible
- The Joseph of Matthew and Luke has been compared to his Old Testament counterpart whose story we read in the last 13 chapters of Genesis
- Many similarities
  - Both men had fathers named Jacob
  - Both demonstrated amazing maturity and faith in God
  - Both received and obeyed dreams and visions from God
  - Both found themselves in Egypt through circumstances outside of their control
  - One, the Joseph of Genesis, was a type or foreshadowing of Jesus who was yet to come
  - The other Joseph, was tasked by God to become his legal guardian

Joseph is only mentioned two other times in the Bible

- The first was when Jesus was 8 days old and, in accordance with the Mosaic law, was taken to be circumcised and presented to God in the temple ([Luke 2:21-24](#))
- The second time when Jesus was a 12-year-old boy, the family had traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover, and Jesus remained at the temple talking with the teachers when his family left to go back home ([Luke 2:41-50](#))

Joseph was a hero of the Bible – but a quiet one

- He didn't allow pride to overtake him
- He didn't try and use his position for gain
- He didn't fall into sin
- He simply obeyed God and thought of his life in much the same way Mary did when she responded to Gabriel after he told her what would be happening,
- She said, *"I am the Lord's servant, be it unto me as you have said."* ([Luke 1:38](#))

As we enter into the Christmas season of 2019, may that be the prayer and the desire of each of our hearts – *"I am the Lord's servant, be it unto me as you have said."*